

Diana Cruse

Cruse 7601@yahoo.com

934-414-0563

Some families big

Some families are small

But God made our families one and all

Some families are big

Some families are small

But God Loves families ,one and all

Some families are big

Some families are small

But God keeps our families one and all

Today, you have allowed me to testify before you concerning my son. Yes, only I can remember the cool October in 2009, I picked him up from Oakwood hospital in Dearborn, Michigan. He was so tiny, so fragile, I was afraid to hold him. Eventually, I remembered how to care for newborn baby and continued to do so. As he grew, I noticed physical and developmental delays. Later, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Also, his mother's rights were terminated and they asked me to adopt him. I said yes to adopt in 2010. Nevertheless, Spectrum Family Services, the adoption agency, had such a large turnover of adoption and foster care workers, I could not complete the paperwork until 2012. All the papers were in order. The difficulty of care payments were approved and I thought this was it. No, there was a consent, which consist of a 50 year age difference between the of the child to approve the adoption. Now I had already been recommended for adoption by the adoption worker, attorney, and the agency but something happened in the process. If an agency recruits a outside family, they receive thousands of dollars. Even though I had the first choice to adopt, spectrum used any lie they could

make up to deny the adoption. Consequently, I had to retain an attorney to ensure I had some legal rights and due process.

The Foster Parent Bill of Rights would protect the foster parent from illegal foster care and adoption tactics to remove the children. Also, age would not be a major factor. The age of consent would be a case by case issue.

The foster and adoption parent is the most valued part of the team. We make a great and sufficient impact in the lives of the children that are placed in our care. Nothing or no one can replace a highly trained, highly experienced and loving foster and adoptive parent.